

receiving from a remote source a request to access one of the objects of the group of objects;

determining whether the requested object is active;

determining whether there is a virtual machine associated with the group of objects when it has been determined that the requested object is inactive;

activating an independent virtual machine for the group of objects when it is determined that there is no virtual machine associated with the group of objects; and

activating the requested object of the group in the independent virtual machine such that at least one other object of the group remains inactive.

58. (Amended) A method in a data processing system having a group of associated objects, the method comprising:

receiving from a remote source a request to access one of the objects in the group of objects;

determining whether the requested object is active;

determining whether an independent virtual machine is associated with the group of objects when it has been determined that the requested object is inactive; and

activating the requested object in the independent virtual machine associated with the group of objects when it is determined that there is a virtual machine associated with the group of objects;

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61. (Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method, the data processing system having a group of associated objects, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving from a remote source a request to access one of the objects of the group of objects;

determining whether the requested object is active;

determining whether there is a virtual machine associated with the group of objects when it has been determined that the requested object is inactive;

activating an independent virtual machine for the group of objects when it is determined that there is no virtual machine associated with the group of objects; and

activating the requested object of the group in the independent virtual machine such that at least one other object of the group remains inactive.

65. (Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method, the data processing system having a group of associated objects, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving from a remote source a request to access one of the objects in the group of objects;

determining whether the requested object is active;

determining whether there is an independent virtual machine associated with the group of objects when it has been determined that the requested object is inactive;

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activating the requested object in the independent virtual machine associated with the group of objects when it is determined that there is a virtual machine associated with the group of objects.

67. (Amended) A distributed system comprising:

a first computer comprising:

a memory containing a process; and

a processor for running the process; and

a second computer comprising:

a memory containing a group of associated objects and containing an object activator that receives a request from the process to access a requested object of the group of objects, the determines whether the requested object is active, that determines whether a virtual machine is associated with the group of objects when it has been determined that the requested object is inactive, that activates an independent virtual machine for the group of objects when it is determined that there is no virtual machine associated with the group of objects, and that activates the requested object of the group in the independent virtual machine such that at least one other object in the group remains inactive; and

a processor for running the virtual machine.

68. (Amended) A distributed system comprising:

a first computer comprising:

a memory containing a process; and

a processor for running the process; and

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a second computer comprising:

a memory containing a group of associated objects and containing an independent virtual machine associated with the group of objects and containing an object activator that receives a request from the process to access a requested object of the group of objects, that determines whether the requested object is active, locates the independent virtual machine associated with the group of objects when it has been determined that the requested object is inactive, and that activates the requested object in the independent virtual machine for the group of objects; and

a processor for running the virtual machine.

69. (Amended) A method in a data processing system having a group of associated objects, the method comprising:

means for receiving from a remote source a request to access one of the objects of the group of objects;

means for determining whether the requested object is active;

means for determining whether there is a virtual machine associated with the group of objects when it has been determined that the requested object is inactive;

means for activating an independent virtual machine for the group of objects when it is determined that there is no virtual machine associated with the group of objects; and

means for activating the requested object of the group in the independent virtual machine such that at least one other object of the group remains inactive.

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